

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended). A sheet punching and embossing machine, comprising:

a machine frame;

a stationary table having a counter plate;

a movable table having a punching knife; and

a stroke drive for reciprocatingly moving said movable table vertically relative to said counter plate, said reciprocating stroke drive having at least one eccentric shaft mounted in said machine frame, pressure rollers eccentrically mounted on said at least one eccentric shaft, and a non-uniformly acting mechanism for imparting a non-uniform movement to said movable table;

said non-uniformly acting mechanism including an elliptical gear and an asymmetrical gear.

Claim 2 (original). The sheet punching and embossing machine according to claim 1, wherein said movable table bears with spring force against said pressure rollers of said reciprocating stroke drive.

Claim 3 (original). The sheet punching and embossing machine according to claim 1, wherein said movable table is disposed above said stationary table.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (original). The sheet punching and embossing machine according to claim 1, further comprising a cam mechanism providing said drive for said eccentric shafts.